(d) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) has planned for setting up of a 44 TMTPA capacity LPG bottling plant near Raipur in Chhattisgarh, which is carried over from Ninth Plan.

International Energy Forum

2070. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Eighth International Energy Forum was held at Osaka in Japan in September, 2002;

(b) if so, the number of countries which participated; and

(c) what decisions were taken at the meeting?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The conference was attended by the Oil and Gas Minister of 65 countries and sector related 11 international associations including Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), and International Energy Agency (IEA).

(c) The general consenus at the conference was that stable oil prices at sustainable levels are in the interest of both the oil producing and cunsuming countries. The oil exporting countries, both OPEC and non-OPEC, assured the conference that the oil producers will utilize their extra production capacity to ensure that there is no shortfall in terms of physical supply of oil in situations of disruptions.

Cancellation of allotment of petrol pumps/gas agencies

2071. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN(DURRU): Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of allotment of petrol pumps, kerosene and LP Gas dealerships in different States and Union Territories, made during 2000 onwards, cancelled under Prime Minister's order;

(b) the cases in which infrastructure was to be provided by the PSUs concerned and the investment actually made by them so far indicating the stage of development in each case; and

(c) the cases in which stay against the orders of Prime Minister has been granted by the courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) The number of retail outlet dealerships (petrol pumps), LPG distributorships and SKO-LDO dealerships in the country, which were covered under Government's order dated August 9, 2002 regarding cancellation of allotment of such dealerships/distributorships made from 1.1.2000, was 3456, including 2248 commissioned dealerships/distributorships.

Out of these commissioned dealerships/distributorships, 989 were company-owned *i.e.,* where all the infrastructure needed, including land, and investment thereon were provided by the oil companies.

(c) In 1994 cases, upto 25.8.2002, different High Courts and other courts in the country had ordered for maintaining *status quo* with reference to the Government order. Later on, in its interim order dated August 28, 2002, the Supreme Court of India directed, *inter-alia,* that while the order of the Government shall be operative in respect of those cases where letters of intent only were issued, in respect of the commissioned dealerships/distributorships, *status quo* as of 9th August, 2002 should be maintained.

New gas policy

2072. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) by when, the Ministry is going to bring new gas policy before Parliament for its consideration;

(b) whether it is a fact that under the proposed new gas policy CNG is going to become cheaper;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the cheap CNG is proposed to be sold only to fertilizer industry; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) No such proposal is under consideration.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.